

President John (AD6NR) called **meeting to order** a little after 7pm.

Introductions: 12 members and 2 guests accounted for. New guest David (KI6CPA - signed up for membership at finish of meeting), was looking for guidance on equipment, particularly advice on types of antennas.

Treasurer's report: Terry (K6UN) reported balances about the same as last month. Income of \$36 from 50/50. Expense of about \$55 for electric bill. Total balance of \$2,569.74, with the reimbursement for food purchased for Field Day still outstanding. Treasurer also noted that a step up in power use happened Saturday. This coincided with a look into the building by John on Saturday, and would correlate to the fluorescent lights being left on in the building. Those new Edison smart meters have some advantages. A check list for leaving the building should be - heater off, lights off, building locked. Then a final check of proper equipment operation should be done before leaving site.

Minutes: Jon (NW6C) read summary of minutes. After the minutes had been circulated for review, they didn't get transmitted to the webmaster (Bob – N7RAP) for posting until about a half hour before the meeting.

Activities:

T-hunt (hidden transmitter hunt): Olin (WA7YXY) was the last delegated “fox”, but all the hunters had other commitments on the scheduled day. This was continued through the summer. There was again support for resuming the hunts at this meeting, and Keith (W6KRF) eventually volunteered to be the fox for a hunt this Saturday. Keith had a spot already picked out. He was open to advice on equipment, but did not want to give out any hints. (John later sent out an email to members with times and rules for the hunt). Basically - ready to go at 10am, the Saturday after the club meeting, starting at the top of Red Hill. Least mileage to the “T” is the winner.

HF nets: 3950 kHz Sunday. 3947 kHz Thursday. Would be nice if they were on the same frequency, but there are other nets above and below the current frequencies that inhibit such a change.

Election of officers: Nominations will be in October. Election in November. Installment in December. One director is elected each year. Current corporate directors are Everett (KD6IXK), Kurt (W6PH), and Terry (K6UN).

Reports:

Paul (KK6BAF) summarized some of the meetings he has attended in Mono County. They are planning an emergency exercise for November 19. Premise is a Pandemic Flu outbreak. An improvement from our previous drills would be to practice using the Amateurs as control operators, turning the radio over to the staff for conveying messages, rather than trying to relay technical messages through the Amateur Radio operators. Marine military has HF capabilities and would like to be part of the drill. A goal is to have an independent communications link between the far ends of the county/counties. Some State stations are intending to participate. Face masks would be required to be used around victims, and local regulations specify a different grade of mask than Federal regulations. Inyo County is going to have a similar drill on November 20. This is probably so that Dr. Johnson (Inyo and Mono County Health Officer) can get a better review of each operation.

Paul, John, and Jon joined Northern Inyo Hospitals booth at the Tri-County Fair. Their display was on emergency preparedness. Paul provided a display of “off grid” provisions – water filters, compact and efficient wood fuel cooking stove, dried packaged foods, lights, radios, and much more. The hospital had several Red Cross emergency packs that they were going to have a drawing to win. A challenge for the presenters was the looped video demonstrating emergency preparedness, sequentially in English and Spanish. It did get the attention of passerbyers, but the loud sound was rough on the volunteers. There was a lot of very informative displays at this years fair. One that I (Jon) found interesting was the Inyo County mosquito abatement display that was diagonally across from ours. I was surprised how many adults did not know what a mosquito larva (wiggler) was. There were some visitors interested in two way radios. Questions from visitors were answered and the online availability of more information, including Amateur test information, was pointed out in the hand out literature at the display.

Tioga Pass run, went very well. Keith, Terry, Joy (AG6WM), Adrian (N6ZA), Rich (KF6YLW) and John provided communications. John figured out that his vertical antenna was not the best choice for that application. Some of the runners were doing so well that they opted to run back down from the finish rather than riding back. Rich asked about why 40m was selected for HF. We might do some comparisons between 40m and 80m. We should select a 40m and an 80m starting frequency for this type of activity.

John has been researching information on getting our coverage area aligned with ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services). Mono County is lumped with San Joaquin Valley. Inyo County is part of the Orange Section. It might make more sense if we were part of the adjacent Nevada ARES. A suggestion would be for Inyo and Mono County operators to register in an “Eastern Sierra” ARES section as part of the Nevada State section. Better links to Nevada could be established through Tonopah and Goldfield repeaters. Jim (KB7PPG) in Tonopah has been able to link to Silver Peak for many years.

Silver peak now has a repeater link controller (provided by John) that was intended to be able to link Mammoth to Silver to Mazourka repeaters. It didn't quite work as planned. With “in-band” linking, the time delays in the individual repeaters create a “ping pong” oscillation when both north and south links are up. The carrier hang / squelch tail at one end is seen as a new key up to the controller which keys up the other end, then back and forth until a timing “alligator” stops the oscillation. The links actually do work together when a conversation is ongoing. The proper solution is to use separate link radios at every repeater site, usually on 440 MHz. Meanwhile, the controller has been programmed to cancel the Mammoth link and enable the Mazourka link when “A” “2” is sent. Sending “A” “3” drops the Mazourka link and Enables the Mammoth link. Control can be done from any of the repeaters (including Little Lake if it is linked to Mazourka). Per Mono County Search and Rescue desires, the Mammoth link is to remain down unless it is actually needed by someone on the Mammoth repeater. The Mammoth repeater is actually owned by Mono S & R, and they generally rather not listen in on the Owens Valley chatter.

Rich asked if there was a good source of information on repeater linking. John replied -”sort of”. He was advised that in-band linking was not practical. His consultants were surprised at what he actually did do with this method. The main motive for doing it this was to avoid installing more equipment at the Mammoth Mountain site. We are a permitted guest of Mammoth Mountain Inc. at this site, and radio/antenna space is very dear, let alone the effort to access this site for our techies. By contrast, the Silver Peak building is ours, even though access can still be a bit of an ordeal. (Anyone up for the challenge of designing a comprehensive linking system?).

Phil (K0RVD) wanted the members to know that there is now a group in Bishop that is hosting a program to help veterans with PTSD. The PTSD does not have to be service related. They have three meetings a week, at three different local sites. Contact Phil for additional information.

Terry asked that everybody review the Club roster. Advise him of any corrections that need to be made. There are 29 names on the roster that have not paid dues this year. Maybe a letter or post card would encourage these people? There have been quite a few people living out of this area that have sent in dues and donations to help support the local repeaters and club.

Everett asked about the Baofeng radios not being type accepted, as stated by Eric (K6EJC) at our last meeting. John gave the most comprehensive explanation, mainly that these came out of the box with the capability of operating outside of the Amateur Radio bands. Amateurs, being responsible for their own transmissions, could legally use these radios as long as they stayed within their license limits. These radios would not be approved for other uses. Erik had mentioned that when he first turned one on, it had out of band frequencies per-programmed in the memory. I (Jon) had the same experience. By contrast, Wouxuns are type approved – and cost more.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:20pm.

Jon Patzer, NW6C, Secretary, BARC Inc.